

Loudoun County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee
Wednesday April 7, 2021, 7:15 p.m.

Executive Committee:

Chair, Sharon Tropf
Vice Chair Planning, Shehnaz Khan
Vice Chair Membership, Heidi Bunkua
Vice Chair Communications, Craig Metz
Secretary, Kathryn Rosenbrook

Liaisons:

Dr. Patricia Nelson, Director of Special Education
Leslee King, School Board

Member Attendance: A quorum of SEAC voting members was confirmed with Vice Chair of Membership with 10 out of 16 members present.

Business Meeting Agenda March 3, 2021

1. Welcome and Call to Order, Sharon Tropf, SEAC Chair 7:15
Explained the role of SEAC, Regulations, and SEAC Leadership.
2. Public Comment.
none
3. Chair Report.
 - a. Review of March Minutes, approved.
 - b. Nominating Committee Report, Members have been contacted to fill the slate.
 - c. SEAC Awards, Theme “Everyday Heroes” has been published and nominations are being accepted. Ceremony May 19, 2021.
 - d. Executive Committee.
 - Next Executive Committee meeting, April 19 at 6:30 p.m., open to the public
 - Membership –16 members, still 5 open slots
 - Welcome new member, Melissa Waugh
 - PTO/PTA Representatives 32 Schools
 - 2020-2021 SEAC Survey being developed will be published in April
 - Presentation Planning, currently planning for 21—22 SY, please send the Executive Committee any feedback on this year’s presentations or areas you would like to see presentations.
 - Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee, SEAC has 2 seats on this committee Veena Sajjan and Shehnaz Khan have been submitted from SEAC.
 - New concerns: LCPS is offering ESY and COVID Recovery services during the same timeframes creating a conflict for some student eligible for both services.

- e. Policy and Compliance Committee.
 - The subcommittee met twice to review Policy. Policy 8080 was reviewed and recommendations made and the IEE concerns have been raised by the special education community. Currently working with LCPS to get the supporting data, LCPS wants to charge SEAC a fee of over \$800 for the information requested.
- f. Specialized Programs.

The subcommittee will be focusing on Transition and Literacy.

 - a. Transition: The leads will be reaching out to LCPS transition supervisor to coordinate and attend the next meeting. Meeting April 15, 2021 from 5 to 6 pm. Newsletter being developed for transition.
 - b. Literacy: The leads will reach out to LCPS supervisor to coordinate current attending a subcommittee meeting to discuss outstanding issues and recent concerns with the miscommunication regarding literacy instruction aligned with the science of reading being published by LCPS. Waiting for a response from Jennifer Sassano, Supervisor of Instructional Facilitators for Specialized Reading and Math with a date and time.
- g. Executive Functioning and Social Emotional Learning, SEAC Chair will reach out to help facilitate meeting.

4. Liaison Reports

- a. Parent Resource Services.
 - Trainings are a mix of livestream and pre-recorded workshops. All flyers and workshops are posted on the Parent Resource Services (PRS) webpage. To receive emails of upcoming trainings, parents can use the Keep in Touch option available on the PRS webpage. Next presentations are: "When the Bus Stops Coming" and "Sources of Strength."
- b. School Board Liaison, Leslee King
 - Superintendent search continues.
 - Renovation of the Douglass School is being completed it will include resources for parents and children.
 - The School Board appreciates the hard work being done by SEAC.
 - Four-day instruction begins April 20 for all hybrid students.
 - The presentation this evening by Dr. Emily Solari was very informative.
- c. Office of Special Education, Dr. Patricia Nelson
 - Policy 8155 was removed from the School Board agenda for further review and recommendations.
 - LCPS will be joining a cohort with 20 other schools transitioning to Virginia IEP for IEP information. LCPS will include the Parent Portal. Training has begun for staff and will be offered to parents.
 - COVID Recovery Services and ESY as determined by IEP teams. All services are being provided at the same building so students can access both COVID Recovery and ESY at the same location as determined by the IEP team.
 - John Lody, Director of Diagnostic and Prevention Services made himself available to answer concerns presented on IEEs.
- d. Department of Pupil Services, Dr. Asia Jones
 - Summer programming being offered in person and virtually. Actively recruiting for the summer programs.
 - Still asking for families to exercise community care. People at the age of 15 are being offered the COVID vaccine and communications have been shared at the high school level.
 - Looking forward to increasing in person activities including sports, concerts, and in person graduations.

5. Old Business:

A. **IEE Concerns**

- Current cost containment guidelines are lower than market rates for evaluations. LCPS cost containment guidelines are lower than Fairfax and Prince William County's current cost containment guidelines. LCPS list of approved providers is lacking. Need a sufficient and comprehensive plan to meet all obligations and needs to provide IEEs at no cost to the parents.
- John Lody shared all requests have been handled in a timely manner since moving to his office to ensure it is in compliance. In process of gathering a list of additional providers.

7. New Business:

A. **Policy 8080, Home Instruction/Home Schooling**

- **Concern 1: Draft Policy 8080**, Home Instruction (Home Schooling) does not address LCPS's regulatory obligations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and in the Virginia Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia.
- **Recommendation 1: Add New Section B.**
 - B. LCPS Obligations.
 1. Upon LCPS receiving of the Notice of Intent for home instruction, LCPS shall inform the parent/guardian of the following rights under the Virginia Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) Regulations,
 2. Consultation on Child
 3. Services Plan
 4. Proportionate Set Aside funds
 5. Consultation on the design and development of special education and related services for home instructed students Home schooled students are considered to be "private school" students as defined in 8 VAC 20-81-150(C)(1)(a).
- Membership approved recommendation unanimously with 10 of 16 members present.

8. Adjourn. 8:12 p.m.